PRAYER

Fajr	5.34
Juma	12.17
Asr	4.10
Maghreb	5.44
Isha	7.00

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"TO SEVER ATTACHMENTS WITH THE WICKED WORLD IS THE GREATEST WEALTH."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

78AH427

27th Amendment against principles of judicial independence, separation of powers, SHC told

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Thursday issued notices to the ministry of law and justice and the ministry of parliamentary affairs on two identical petitions impugning the 27Th Constitutional Amendment.

Two lawyers have petitioned the SHC and asserted that the amendment has violated the principle of separation of power, judicial independence and rule of law.

A two-judge constitutional bench of the SHC comprising Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry and Justice Muhammad Jaffer Raza also put a federal law officer on notice for Dec 18.

Citing the federation through the secretaries of ministry of law and justice and parliamentary affairs as respondents, petitioners Asif Waheed and Abdul Ahad Ahmar Khan contended that the creation of a parallel judicial structure and subordination of the Supreme Court will disrupt the continuity of constitutional interpretation and institutional evolution thereby violating the doctrine of basic structure.

They also argued that judicial independence was precondition for fairness and any structural compromise in impartiality of judiciary directly affects fairness of proceedings and adjudication. Judicial independence is also a fundamental principle of the rule of law ensuring that the judiciary can adjudicate cases impartially and without external interference, they argued.

The petitioners further maintained that an increased interference by the executive in appointment of judges of superior courts will pose a significant threat to the doctrine of judicial independence and such encroachment will also undermine separation of powers by allowing the executive to exert undue influence over the judiciary.

They maintained that after the enactment of the impugned amendment, a greater interference was allowed by the legislature/executive over the appointment of judges of the Federal Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court.

The counsel for the petitioners argued that a provision about forced retirement of a judge of higher judiciary has also been introduced and if a judge declined to become the chief justice he/she stood retired and treating a judge's principled refusal as retirement constituted a form of constructive removal again offending the doctrine of judicial independence as entrenched in the Constitution.

They also contended that the transfer of jurisdiction threatened to destabilise decades of constitutional jurisprudence developed by the Supreme Court and transfer of high court judges has also been entrusted in the hands of the executive-dominated Judicial Commission of Pakistan.

The counsel further asserted that the lifetime immunity was also granted from arrest and all criminal as well as civil proceedings to the President while the parliament's power to amend the constitution was wide but not absolute and permanent immunity clause has infringed Article 4, Article 25 and Article 10A of the Constitution.

They argued that the judiciary has played a fundamental role to check executive overreach, protection against corruption and uphold the core human rights and the impugned amendment has threatened the independence of judiciary.

The petitioners asked the court to strike down the amendment for being unconstitutional, against the basic structure/salient features of the Constitution and contrary to the principles of judicial independence and separation of powers.

After a preliminary hearing, the bench issued notice to the respondent as well as a federal law officer on both petitions with direction to file comments till next hearing.

Mayor opens *Peace & Pieces IV* at World Culture Festival

Portuguese singer Ricardo Passos expounds on fundamentals of music

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Mayor Murtaza Wahab on Thursday inaugurated the international art exhibition, *Peace & Pieces Volume IV*, as part of the ongoing World Culture Festival.

The exhibition was attended by a large number of art enthusiasts, including Marc Payton, the French Embassy's Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Wahab said that the festival had become the cultural hub of Karachi. "Karachi is a city of love. Today, we are showing the world how art and culture can connect people. I thank Ahmed Shah, whose efforts have brought artists from around the world to Karachi."

He said: "A beautiful blend of national and international artistic talent can be seen at the Arts Council. It is wonderful to see local and international artists creating fusion together. I am grateful to the Arts Council and all international delegates who are enhancing the vibrancy of Karachi."

He said Pakistani artists are collaborating with a French mural artist to paint the walls of the city, and soon Karachi will be adorned with mural art. "We are learning so much from the work of international artists. Art, music, dance — everything is happening here. Soon, the vibrancy of the Faizi Rahimin Art Gallery will also be restored."

MAYOR Murtaza Wahab speaks, alongside Ahmed Shah and others, to some international artists after inaugurating the exhibition at the Arts Council on Thursday.—Dawn

International artists featured in the exhibition included Kelechi Nwaneri (Nigeria), Adjaratou Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso), Sofia Maria Xenaki (Greece) and Aglaia Perraki (Greece).

Pakistan's leading artists including Amin Gulgee, Akram Spaul, Bazil Habib, Hamza Qazi, S.M. Fawad, Rahat Ali, Muhammad Muzammil, Muhammad Asad Gulzar, Haider Ali Naqvi, Asif Ahmed, Abida Dahri, Mona Naqoosh, Zahid Mayo, Ghulam Hussain, and A.S. Rind, captivated visitors with their works.

Music workshop

Earlier, the 21st day of the festival began with a music workshop conducted by Portuguese singer Ricardo Passos, who taught students of the Arts Council Music Academy the fundamentals of music.

During the workshop, Mr Passos explained the bass drum is very important in music, played using one hand and one stick, producing two tones, a soft sound and a deep sound.

He added that balance is essential in music and that the basic rhythm of the tambourine is "takara takara".

Film screening

In the film screening segment, the award-winning Pakistani drama film *Saawan*, written by Faryad Khan and directed by Farhan Alam, was showcased.

The film portrays the inspiring story of a disabled child and beautifully highlights themes of humanity, courage, survival and social injustice.

Uncontrolled fishing fleets, post-harvest losses threaten Pakistan's marine future

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: On the eve of World Fisheries Day, the World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) has stressed the need of protecting natural habitats and the diverse fauna and flora that, it says, are under serious threat due to unsustainable practices and the uncontrolled increase in the fishing fleet.

According to a press release issued here, the organisation said the day, observed globally on Nov 21, serves as a stark reminder of the mounting threats facing the marine ecosystems. Beyond celebrating the value of fisheries, this day underscores the urgent need for sustainable resource management, the protection of small-scale fishing communities' rights, the improvement of working conditions, and the elimination of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

It said: "It is now well-known that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested, and more than one-third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and climate change.

"The situation in Pakistan is not different, as most of the fish stocks in coastal and offshore waters are now overexploited which is evident from stagnancy in the fish landings which is not static rather declining," it said, adding: "Major post-harvest losses, high bycatch of endangered and threatened species such as cetaceans, turtles, and other megafauna, along with the uncontrolled increase in the fishing fleet, have significantly threatened marine biodiversity."

WWF-P Technical Adviser Muhammad Moazzam Khan said: "While several policies and strategies are being developed to improve Pakistan's fisheries sector, WWF-Pakistan believes that a five-pronged strategy must be implemented immediately.

"This includes reducing the fishing fleet, improving on-board post-harvest handling in multiday fisheries, establishing shrimp farming clusters along the Sindh and Balochistan coasts, initiating exploratory fishing to sustainably utilise unexploited resources, and diversifying seafood products.

"Together, these measures can increase production, boost exports, and significantly improve the socio-economic conditions of coastal fishing communities," he added.

Implementation on the strategy will enhance seafood production and export, which is necessary for improvement of socio-economic conditions of the coastal communities living along 1,001-km-long Pakistan coast.

Protection of fragile ecosystem of coastal and offshore waters is essentially required as some of the harmful practices are posing extreme threat to highly diversified biodiversity of the northern Arabian Sea, the statement added.

Dawood Global Foundation president honoured

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Tara Uzra Dawood, president of the Dawood Global Foundation and founder of Ladiesfund Energy Ltd, has been honoured with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) CAREC Gender and Green Innovation Award 2025.

According to a press release issued here, the award was given to Ms Dawood at a ceremony held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

"Congratulations to Ms Dawood for her well-deserved award in recognition of her visionary leadership of Ladiesfund Energy, combining gender equality goals with green innovation for transformative solar solutions," said Samantha Hung, Director of ADB's Gender Equality Division and jury member.

This award recognizes Ms Dawood's exceptional contributions to advancing gender equality through green innovation and technology, exemplifying how sustainable solutions can address climate challenges while fostering inclusive economic growth, it added.

"This honor reaffirms our belief that women's empowerment and sustainable development are two sides of the same coin," said Ms Dawood. "Together, we can drive meaningful change that uplifts communities while protecting our planet."

Work on Red Line

Continued from Page 13

shocks. The ADB country director expressed appreciation for the Sindh government's engagement and reaffirmed ADB's support for ongoing and future initiatives. She said the Sindh Government has demonstrated strong ownership of ADB-supported programmes.

She stressed the importance of meeting performance benchmarks, enhancing institutional capacity, particularly within TransKarachi for the BRT system and addressing safeguards and community concerns.

"The ADB is ready to consider loan extensions and additional financing based on improved performance and compliance. We encourage the province to maintain momentum so that key development objectives can be achieved within agreed timelines," she added.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon told the meeting that the bottlenecks in the BRT Red Line had been removed with the intervention of the chief minister and the halted work has been resumed.

The CM assured the ADB team of the provincial government's commitment to accelerate implementation and address bottlenecks.

The discussion included updates on financing needs, institutional strengthening, project performance, and timelines for the completion of major components.

Cabinet

Continued from Page 13

including the Board of Revenue for price assessment, NED University for structural strength and condition assessment, and the Culture Department for heritage evaluation under the Sindh Cultural Heritage law.

The cabinet also allocated 639 additional residential plots for members of the Karachi Press Club (KPC).

The proposal included the Lyari Development Authority's (LDA) request for authorisation to plan, allocate and develop the plots on 125 acres in Hawksbay Scheme-42, along with approval for the release of necessary funds.

KWSC gets 20 trucks

Continued from Page 13

and other officials were also present.

The mayor said with the provision of new modern machinery, the benefits will soon reach the people. He said that practical steps to improve the sewerage system across the city are being fast-tracked, and new parking zones are being set up for suction and jetting machines to ensure timely and efficient service delivery.

He said that a major parking zone for 25 suction machines is being developed in Haroonabad, located between District West and Keamari, so that issues in Manghopir or Keamari can be resolved promptly.

He said that the biggest hurdle in effectively tackling water theft was the absence of KWSC's own tribunal and police station. As a result, every operation required support from external police stations and officers, causing delays and difficulties. Today marks a historic milestone as water corporation lays the foundation of its own police station."

He said that the new police station will have its own dedicated staff. When the Anti-Theft Cell carries out actions against water theft, they will no longer need assistance from other police stations. Swift and fearless action will be ensured, he added.

Science comes alive with comic characters, stories

Continued from Page 13

'Walk for Children's Rights' at the AKU Sports and Rehabilitation Centre walking track.

The event brought together children, parents, students, teachers, doctors, staff and the wider community in a powerful demonstration of support for children's well-being, protection, and empowerment.

The walk served as a highlight of the AKUH's week-long celebrations, which featured thoughtfully curated activities across multiple paediatric and outpatient spaces.

Throughout the week, children participated in play therapy sessions in paediatric wards, student-led debates, and creative showcases designed to encourage expression, confidence and learning.

The activities were also held across AKUH's off-campus hospitals in Karimabad, Garden, Kharadar and Hyderabad. Special engagements in outpatient clinics brought moments of joy to children and families visiting for care, ensuring that celebrations extended across all hospital services and touched communities beyond the main campus.

PAEI
8TH PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY EXPO & TOURISM
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE
KARACHI
22-23 November 2025
Pearl-Continental (PC) Hotel, Karachi
11:00AM TO 10:00 PM
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